

ALLOTMENTS OF LANDS TO INDIANS OF THE MENOMINEE RESERVATION, WIS.

JANUARY 16, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. KNUTSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6869]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6869) to authorize allotments of lands to Indians of the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 2, line 13, correct the spelling of the word "merchantable."

Page 2, strike out all of lines 16 and 17 and down to and including the word "direct" in line 18.

Page 4, line 6, after the word "hereby," insert "authorized to be."

Page 4, line 13, strike out the word "such."

Page 4, line 14, after the word "act," insert "to be paid or expended for their benefit."

There are, at the present time, approximately 1,838 Indian names on the reservation books, including men, women, and children, probably less than half that number being adults. If every Indian receives his 80-acre allotment it will require 147,040 acres, a trifle more than half the acreage of the reservation. The entire reservation covers 10 townships.

This bill was introduced at the request of a delegation of Menominee Indians who had been sent to Washington by the tribe and instructed to request that such a bill be enacted into law. The legislation has been thoroughly investigated by E. A. Allen, the agent in charge of the reservation, who is a man who has studied the Indians and has been with them for over 30 years. The provisions of the bill also have the indorsement of the Secretary of the Interior, as evidenced by the attached letter, which is made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 1, 1924.

HON. HOMER P. SNYDER,
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: Reference is again made to your letter of March 5, transmitting for report copy of H. R. 6869, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, entitled "A bill to authorize allotments of lands to Indians of the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin, and for other purposes."

The bill, with several minor changes as herein suggested, is satisfactory to this department. In connection with this proposed legislation attention is invited to H. R. 12980 and S. 4048, Sixty-sixth Congress, second session, and also to H. R. 12190 and S. 3759, Sixty-seventh Congress, second session, all of which were similar to the present bill. The two bills introduced in the Sixty-sixth Congress were the subject of favorable reports to the Indian Committees of the House and Senate as of June 26, 1922. The bill now under consideration is identical with those two bills with the additions of sections 6 and 7.

A majority of the Indians of the Menominee Reservation are reported to be in favor of allotments of not less than 80 acres to each person entitled, and as a large part of the reservation is covered with timber, it will be necessary to allot the timbered lands in some cases as well as the nontimbered area. However, section 1 reserves to the United States the right to cut and market the merchantable timber for the benefit of the Menominee Indians, and section 2 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, to reserve from allotment lands chiefly valuable for the timber thereon or that may in his opinion be needed for reforestation. The appropriation of \$10,000 as provided by section 6, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is essential to properly enable this department to carry out the provisions of the act.

It is noticed that the word "merchantable" in line 13, page 2, is misspelled. This should be corrected. It is also believed that the word "such," in line 13, page 4, is superfluous and should therefore be eliminated. As to section 7, which authorizes a per capita payment of not to exceed \$500 to Indians who receive allotments under authority of the act, this has been urged by the Indians and recommended by their superintendent. In justification for this item, it may be explained that there is at this time something over \$1,000,000 in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Menominee Indians, and the withdrawal therefrom of the amount needed will be very helpful in aiding the Indians to establish themselves on their individual allotments, and to obtain necessary supplies, implements, teams, etc., to improve, cultivate and make the best possible use of their lands. This fund is being increased from the sales of tribal timber. It is suggested that this section be changed by inserting after the word "act," in line 14, page 4, "to be paid to or expended for their benefit."

Under date of March 18, 1924, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget advises that the "proposed report is not in conflict with the financial program of the President." For the reasons herein given, this department is in favor of the proposed legislation if corrected and amended as suggested.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.